



HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, WASHINGTON, DC 20231, ON THE DATE INDICATED BELOW.

By: Yannick Shull

Date: April 7, 2003

PATENT
Box RCE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re:	Nanning J. Arfsten, <i>et al.</i>	:	Group Art Unit 1775
Conf. No.:	8672	:	
Appn. No.	09/437,948	:	Examiner: J. McNeil
Filed:	November 10, 1999	:	
For:	NIOBIUM OXIDE-BASED LAYERS FOR THIN FILM OPTICAL COATINGS AND PROCESSES FOR PRODUCING THE SAME	:	Attorney Docket No. 275-3US

AMENDMENT ACCOMPANYING REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Notice of Allowance mailed February 20, 2003 (Paper No. 19). A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) accompanies this amendment.

Please amend the application without prejudice as follows:

In the claims:

Please add new claim 24 as follows:

~~24. (New) The coating in accordance with claim 12, wherein the niobium oxide is present in the layer in a mole fraction of from about 0.22 to about 0.53, the silicon oxide is present in the layer in a mole fraction of from about 0.29 to about 0.49, and the aluminum oxide is present in the layer in a mole fraction of from about 0.17 to about 0.29, each mole fraction being based on the total moles of niobium oxide, silicon oxide and aluminum oxide in the layer.~~

*Att
Subj
contd*

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 11, 12, 19, 20, and 22-24 are presently pending in the application.

Claims 1, 2, 11, 12, 19, 20, 22 and 23 have been allowed.